President's remarks on questions and answers.

President.—Questions and answers are over.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Members, I shall say a word about the interpellations put and the answers made by the Government.

In this Legislative Session which comprised four meetings, we had in all received 775 questions, of which the President disallowed 14 under the Rules of the Council Law. Then there were 761 questions for answer, and out of these 690 were answered, (*hear, hear*) leaving 71 alone unanswered. Of course, so far as the work in this particular meeting is concerned, as against 394 questions answered in all the three previous meetings together, we have succeeded in answering 296 questions (*hear,hear*) at this one sitting, that is, about 90 questions less than all the questions answered in the three previous meetings (*hear, hear*). As regards the balance of 71 questions, 53 were received at short notice, and had we sufficient time, those questions also would have been answered. After all, we had only to leave 14 questions unanswered. The total number of questions left unanswered (and these will lapse by reason of the prorogation of the session) will be 71, and if the Members would like to have those questions answered, they would send those questions up as early as possible. I wish to point out that there is no want of earnestness in the matter of answering questions. My energetic and painstaking Secretary, Mr. Kandar Menon, ably assisted by the Secretariat staff, deserves credit for this satisfactory state of things, and I should like to say that his ambition is that, in the next Budget Session, there should be no questions left unanswered, the only condition he stipulates being that the questions should be sent up sufficiently early. I wish that the Members of this Council will rest assured that we are giving the greatest consideration to the questions put, and we are trying to give them answers as far as possible. At the same time, I wish to say that our efforts in the matter of resolutions were not equally commendable. As it is, we have not been able to finish one day's resolutions, and I hope that, before the sitting of the day is brought to a close, we will at least see that all the resolutions in Monday's agenda are got through. But, this hope is not likely to be realised. We have got the adjournment motion at 3-30, and practically very few resolutions can be attended to.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May I say one word with your permission? While we entirely associate ourselves in your words about the Secretary and the Secretariat staff, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that, according to the present system, a large number of questions are asked and answered. As all questions must be answered within a limited time, the result has been that

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out of 59 questions answered to-day, we were able to put supplementary questions only on a few. The only way to get out of this difficulty, I am throwing a suggestion, is that there must be some sort of restriction on the number of questions each Member can send. Otherwise, it would be difficult to get a chance for asking supplementary questions, and unless supplementary questions are put, the object with which they are put is not achieved. I am only throwing a suggestion like this so that we may make use of this opportunity of getting certain information which we cannot have otherwise.

President.—That suggestion of yours, that the Members must limit the number of questions to be sent up for answer, I must leave to the good sense of the Council Members. I cannot do anything else in the matter.

Election of Members of the Standing Finance Committee.

President.—The next item of business is the election of fresh Members to the Standing Finance Committee by the non-official Members. If there are three names on which the non-official Members agree, it is easy. Otherwise, I must ask the Members to suggest the names.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—That shall be done in the afternoon.

President.—I put it purposely now; for, in the afternoon, some will be going. They may be going, being the last day, to catch the train. The suggestion was to put it in the afternoon, but I put it purposely in the morning.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Many Members will be away in the afternoon. May I propose three names?

President.—You can. Being a Party, have you agreed?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—We had not time to meet as a Party, but some sort of tacit understanding has been arrived at. I propose for the Standing Finance Committee Mr. A.B. Salem, for continuity's sake, because he was one of the three Members of last year, Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan and Mr. K. J. Antony.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I second it.

President.—Any other proposal for consideration?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I propose Mr. P. Krishna Menon, Mr. K. J. Antony and Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.

President.—Who seconds that?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I second it.

President.—Any other proposal? That is all, I think. Will you kindly write the three names? For uniformity's sake they may be written. Mr. K. J. Antony and Mr. Kumaran Ezhuthassan are common. So one name is enough.

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